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## **Istook Says Trade Promotion Authority Good for Oklahoma**

*Washington, DC* – Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) voted today to give President George Bush authority to negotiate international trade agreements. Congress approved the measure 215 to 214.

**“When America competes in fair and free international trade, America wins,”** said Istook. **“This means more jobs, more high-tech jobs and more buying power for American families. Fewer tariffs mean an average family can save \$1,000 to \$2,000 a year thanks to lower prices.”**

Oklahoma exported over \$3.28 billion in goods last year, a 20% increase from 1997 and 40% higher than 1993. From 1999 to 2000, Oklahoma ranked seventh nationally in terms of export growth.

Oklahoma exports \$944 in goods for every state resident, and 64,000 jobs in Oklahoma depend on exports.

Under the measure, the Administration must consult with Congress before, during, and after negotiations, and Congress retains the right to vote against a trade agreement that the President has negotiated.

The measure now awaits approval from the Senate.